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Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director

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January 2, 2003

Secretary Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street Northwest
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Re. AB 33 (Sub No 143X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

We have, as yet, not been able to conclude negotiations for the acquisition of the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way between Belmond and Thornton in Wright County and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa, for conversion to a trail. Grant funding has become very difficult to obtain and we are not able, at this time, to raise sufficient funds to meet the asking price of the Railroad. We are continuing our effort in this regard and are hoping money will be freed up in 2004.

We are requesting another 180 day extension of time in which to complete these negotiations. We are mailing ten copies of this request and are faxing this day a copy of our request to the Union Pacific Railroad offices in Omaha and Chicago.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, I remain

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan